
HOUSE BILL 1714

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Representative Chase

Read first time 01/25/2007. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to campaign contribution limits; and amending RCW
2 42.17.640.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.17.640 and 2006 c 348 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The contribution limits in this section apply to:

7 (a) Candidates for state legislative office;

8 (b) Candidates for state office other than state legislative
9 office;

10 (c) Candidates for county office in a county that has over two
11 hundred thousand registered voters;

12 (d) Candidates for special purpose district office if that district
13 is authorized to provide freight and passenger transfer and terminal
14 facilities and that district has over two hundred thousand registered
15 voters;

16 (e) Persons holding an office in (a) through (d) of this subsection
17 against whom recall charges have been filed or to a political committee
18 having the expectation of making expenditures in support of the recall
19 of a person holding the office;

1 (f) Caucus political committees;

2 (g) Bona fide political parties.

3 (2) No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus
4 political committee, may make contributions to a candidate for a state
5 legislative office or county office that in the aggregate exceed seven
6 hundred dollars or to a candidate for a public office in a special
7 purpose district or a state office other than a state legislative
8 office that in the aggregate exceed one thousand four hundred dollars
9 for each election in which the candidate is on the ballot or appears as
10 a write-in candidate. Contributions to candidates subject to the
11 limits in this section made with respect to a primary may not be made
12 after the date of the primary. However, contributions to a candidate
13 or a candidate's authorized committee may be made with respect to a
14 primary until thirty days after the primary, subject to the following
15 limitations: (a) The candidate lost the primary; (b) the candidate's
16 authorized committee has insufficient funds to pay debts outstanding as
17 of the date of the primary; and (c) the contributions may only be
18 raised and spent to satisfy the outstanding debt. Contributions to
19 candidates subject to the limits in this section made with respect to
20 a general election may not be made after the final day of the
21 applicable election cycle.

22 (3) No person, other than a bona fide political party or a caucus
23 political committee, may make contributions to a state official, a
24 county official, or a public official in a special purpose district
25 against whom recall charges have been filed, or to a political
26 committee having the expectation of making expenditures in support of
27 the recall of the state official, county official, or public official
28 in a special purpose district during a recall campaign that in the
29 aggregate exceed seven hundred dollars if for a state legislative
30 office or county office or one thousand four hundred dollars if for a
31 special purpose district office or a state office other than a state
32 legislative office.

33 (4)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, no bona fide
34 political party (~~(or caucus political committee)~~) may make
35 contributions to a candidate during an election cycle that in the
36 aggregate exceed ~~((+i))~~ seventy cents multiplied by the number of
37 eligible registered voters in the jurisdiction from which the candidate
38 is elected (~~((if the contributor is a caucus political committee or the~~

1 ~~governing body of a state organization, or (ii) thirty five cents~~
2 ~~multiplied by the number of registered voters in the jurisdiction from~~
3 ~~which the candidate is elected if the contributor is a county central~~
4 ~~committee or a legislative district committee)).~~

5 (b) No candidate may accept contributions from a county central
6 committee or a legislative district committee during an election cycle
7 that when combined with contributions from other county central
8 committees or legislative district committees would in the aggregate
9 exceed (~~thirty five~~) seventy cents times the number of registered
10 voters in the jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected.

11 (5)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, no bona fide
12 political party (~~or caucus political committee~~) may make
13 contributions to a state official, county official, or a public
14 official in a special purpose district against whom recall charges have
15 been filed, or to a political committee having the expectation of
16 making expenditures in support of the state official, county official,
17 or a public official in a special purpose district during a recall
18 campaign that in the aggregate exceed (~~(+i)~~) seventy cents multiplied
19 by the number of eligible registered voters in the jurisdiction
20 entitled to recall the state official (~~if the contributor is a caucus~~
21 ~~political committee or the governing body of a state organization, or~~
22 ~~(ii) thirty five cents multiplied by the number of registered voters in~~
23 ~~the jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected if the contributor~~
24 ~~is a county central committee or a legislative district committee)).~~

25 (b) No official holding an office specified in subsection (1) of
26 this section against whom recall charges have been filed, no authorized
27 committee of the official, and no political committee having the
28 expectation of making expenditures in support of the recall of the
29 official may accept contributions from a county central committee or a
30 legislative district committee during an election cycle that when
31 combined with contributions from other county central committees or
32 legislative district committees would in the aggregate exceed (~~thirty~~
33 ~~five~~) seventy cents multiplied by the number of registered voters in
34 the jurisdiction from which the candidate is elected.

35 (6) For purposes of determining contribution limits under
36 subsections (4) and (5) of this section, the number of eligible
37 registered voters in a jurisdiction is the number at the time of the
38 most recent general election in the jurisdiction.

1 (7) Notwithstanding subsections (2) through (5) of this section, no
2 person other than an individual, bona fide political party, or caucus
3 political committee may make contributions reportable under this
4 chapter to a caucus political committee that in the aggregate exceed
5 seven hundred dollars in a calendar year or to a bona fide political
6 party that in the aggregate exceed three thousand five hundred dollars
7 in a calendar year. This subsection does not apply to loans made in
8 the ordinary course of business.

9 (8) For the purposes of RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790, a
10 contribution to the authorized political committee of a candidate or of
11 an official specified in subsection (1) of this section against whom
12 recall charges have been filed is considered to be a contribution to
13 the candidate or official.

14 (9) A contribution received within the twelve-month period after a
15 recall election concerning an office specified in subsection (1) of
16 this section is considered to be a contribution during that recall
17 campaign if the contribution is used to pay a debt or obligation
18 incurred to influence the outcome of that recall campaign.

19 (10) The contributions allowed by subsection (3) of this section
20 are in addition to those allowed by subsection (2) of this section, and
21 the contributions allowed by subsection (5) of this section are in
22 addition to those allowed by subsection (4) of this section.

23 (11) RCW 42.17.640 through 42.17.790 apply to a special election
24 conducted to fill a vacancy in an office specified in subsection (1) of
25 this section. However, the contributions made to a candidate or
26 received by a candidate for a primary or special election conducted to
27 fill such a vacancy shall not be counted toward any of the limitations
28 that apply to the candidate or to contributions made to the candidate
29 for any other primary or election.

30 (12) Notwithstanding the other subsections of this section, no
31 corporation or business entity not doing business in Washington state,
32 no labor union with fewer than ten members who reside in Washington
33 state, and no political committee that has not received contributions
34 of ten dollars or more from at least ten persons registered to vote in
35 Washington state during the preceding one hundred eighty days may make
36 contributions reportable under this chapter to a candidate, to a state
37 official against whom recall charges have been filed, or to a political

1 committee having the expectation of making expenditures in support of
2 the recall of the official. This subsection does not apply to loans
3 made in the ordinary course of business.

4 (13) Notwithstanding the other subsections of this section, no
5 county central committee or legislative district committee may make
6 contributions reportable under this chapter to a candidate specified in
7 subsection (1) of this section, or an official specified in subsection
8 (1) of this section against whom recall charges have been filed, or
9 political committee having the expectation of making expenditures in
10 support of the recall of an official specified in subsection (1) of
11 this section if the county central committee or legislative district
12 committee is outside of the jurisdiction entitled to elect the
13 candidate or recall the official.

14 (14) No person may accept contributions that exceed the
15 contribution limitations provided in this section.

16 (15) The following contributions are exempt from the contribution
17 limits of this section:

18 (a) An expenditure or contribution earmarked for voter
19 registration, for absentee ballot information, for precinct caucuses,
20 for get-out-the-vote campaigns, for precinct judges or inspectors, for
21 sample ballots, or for ballot counting, all without promotion of or
22 political advertising for individual candidates; or

23 (b) An expenditure by a political committee for its own internal
24 organization or fund raising without direct association with individual
25 candidates.

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